

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An image generating apparatus
comprising:

image generating means for generating a
sequential character image by connecting a plurality
10 of unit image groups which are respectively
guaranteed to indicate one communication
information; and

display means for displaying said sequential
character image.

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2. The image generating apparatus as
20 claimed in claim 1, which further comprises:

storage means for storing a plurality of said
unit image groups,

said storage means storing a plurality of kinds
of unit image groups having mutually different
25 starting reference images and ending reference
images with respect to the same communication
information,

said image generating means reading a leading
unit image group and a trailing image group which
30 has a starting reference image approximately
matching an ending reference image of the leading
unit image group from said storage means and
connecting the leading and trailing unit image
groups.

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3. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a sequential character image, comprising:

image generating means for causing the computer
5 to generate a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively guaranteed to indicate one communication information; and

display means for causing the computer to
10 display said sequential character image.

15 4. An image generating apparatus which generates a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit component images respectively representing a series of actions, each of said unit component images being made up of a
20 plurality of images including a starting image and an ending image of an action of a character;

a data retrieving part selectively searching and reading the unit component images stored in said database; and

25 a connecting part connecting an end image of a first unit component image read by said data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image read by said data retrieving part.

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35 5. An image generating apparatus for generating a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character

and made up of a plurality of images, in
correspondence with attribute information defining
each action;

5 a retrieving part reading a unit image group
corresponding to input attribute information from
said database, based on the input attribute
information; and

editing means for editing the unit image group
read by said retrieving part.

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6. A computer-readable storage medium
15 which stores a program for causing a computer to
generate a motion picture, comprising:

20 a data retrieving part causing the computer to
selectively search and read unit component images
stored in a database which stores unit component
images respectively representing a series of actions,
each of said unit component images being made up of
a plurality of images including a starting image and
an ending image of an action of a character; and

25 a connecting part causing the computer to
connect an end image of a first unit component image
which is caused to read by said data retrieving part
and a starting image of a second unit component
image which is caused to read by said data
retrieving part.

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7. A computer-readable storage medium
35 which stores a program for causing a computer to
generate a motion picture, comprising:

a retrieving part causing the computer to read

a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from a database, based on the input attribute information, said database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action; and

editing means for causing the computer to edit the unit image group caused to read by said retrieving part.

8. An image generating apparatus comprising:

image generating means for generating a sequential character image;

display means for displaying the sequential character image; and

control means for controlling a device depending on a motion of the sequential character image.

9. An image generating apparatus comprising:

sequence generating means for generating an operation sequence by connecting a plurality of picture scenes of the character image generated by said image generating apparatus, by treating the character image in units of significance spaces corresponding to one picture scene from a point in time when a switching of one picture of the character image occurs to a point in time when a

next switching of one picture occurs,

each of said significance spaces being defined as an object at least including a method corresponding to a character display and a method corresponding to a user input and/or output.

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10. The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said sequence generating means includes means for calling a corresponding data file by searching a database based on a retrieval key specified by each method.

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11. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate an operation sequence, comprising:

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sequence generating means for causing the computer to generate an operation sequence by connecting a plurality of picture scenes of a character image, by treating the character image in units of significance spaces corresponding to one picture scene from a point in time when a switching of one picture of the character image occurs to a point in time when a next switching of one picture occurs,

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each of said significance spaces being defined as an object at least including a method corresponding to a character display and a method corresponding to a user input and/or output.

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12. The computer-readable storage medium
as claimed in claim ~~11~~²¹, wherein each of said
significance spaces further includes at least one of
a method corresponding to audio reproduction, a
5 method corresponding to a cooperation process of the
character display and the audio reproduction, and a
method corresponding to a background image.

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13. A database comprising:
a character image stored in units of
significance spaces corresponding to one picture
15 scene from a point in time when a switching of one
picture of the character image occurs to a point in
time when a next switching of one picture occurs,
and
each of said significance spaces is defined as
20 an object at least including a method corresponding
to a character display and a method corresponding to
a user input and/or output.

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14. The database as claimed in claim ~~13~~²³,
wherein an operation sequence is generated by
connecting a plurality of picture scenes of the
30 character image, and data files of the character
image stored in the database are searched based on
retrieval keys specified by each of methods.

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